White Furniture

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White

ALBUM OF FINE FURNITURE

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Design Division

Fine Furniture Since 1881

Good furniture was a tradition in the famous little town of Mebane, North Carolina, long before the year 1881, when the first piece of White Furniture was made.

The White boys, Will and Dave, had watched journeymen craftsmen fashion pieces of rich and lasting beauty. In the homes of the Pages, the Mebanes, and other old Haw River Valley families dating back to Colonial days . . . they had lived familiarly with furniture that had enriched, and been enriched by, the good life of many generations.

On the exact site of the first White Furniture shop . . . descendants of the founders and the early craftsmen are still building furniture of enduring usefulness and beauty . . . until the town that General Alexander Mebane founded . . . and made famous as a stronghold of patriotism in Revolutionary days . . . has become, in our time, synonomous with the finest in furniture.

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White FURNITURE COMPANY
MEBANE, NORTH CAROLINA

The South's Oldest Makers of Fine Furniture

choosing your furniture

Like every woman who dreams and plans . . . you think of your home as your castle . . . fortress of all your life and happiness. You want furniture to use for a lifetime . . . and to leave all the lovelier because of your use and care.

Yet . . . too often furniture instead of being "for a lifetime" is built for short and temporary use, on the theory that people buy furniture twice—once when they marry and once after they have learned to choose wisely.

Dresden Compote — Reese's Antique Shop, Charlotte, N. C.

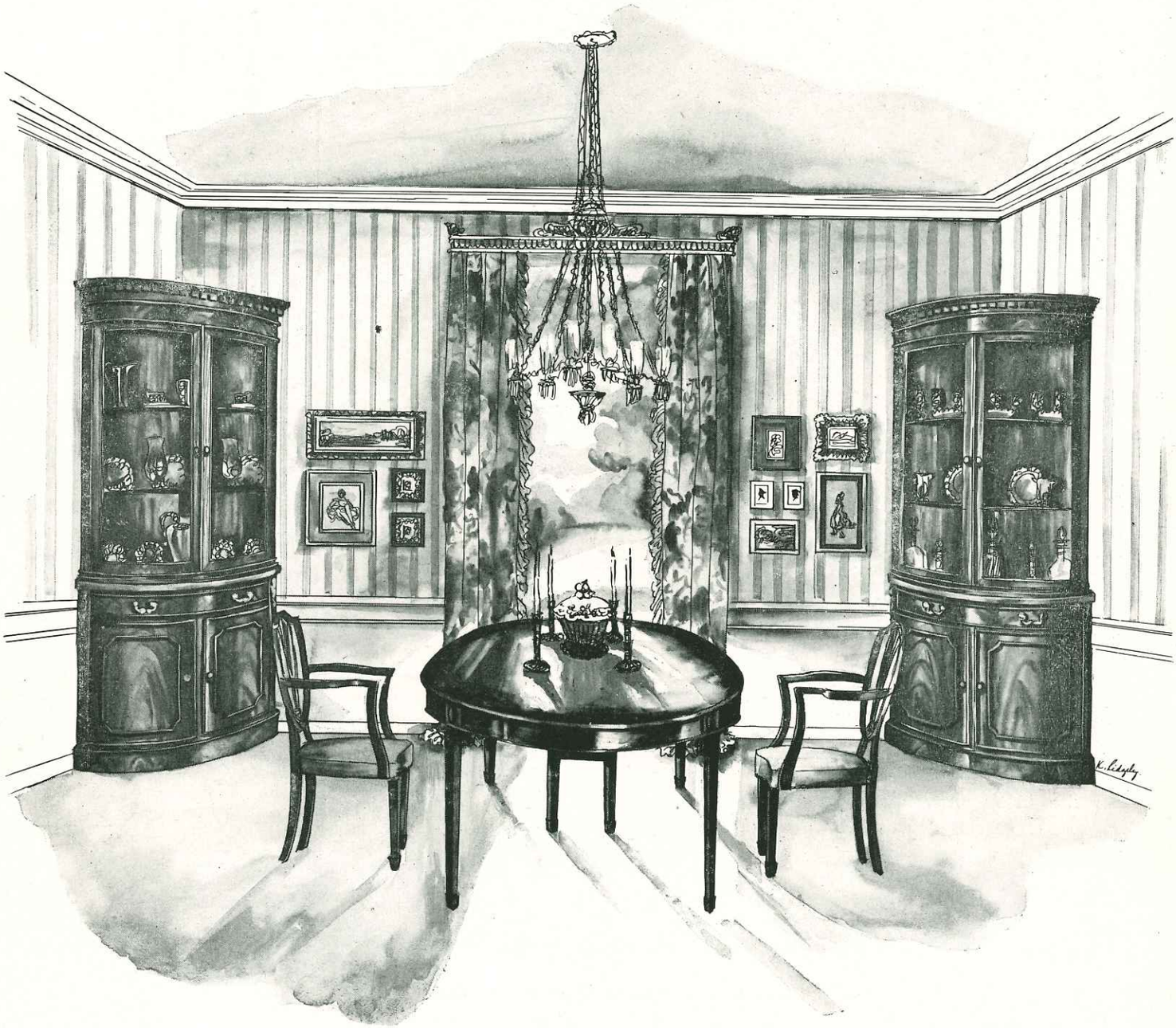
White reproductions and adaptations

are designed, crafted, and finished to help you avoid any costly false start in homemaking. From the beginning, it brings you the loveliness you long for. It surprises and pleases you year after year . . . by fitting in harmoniously with other pieces of any period . . . by growing richer with use . . . by lending itself to drastic change of decor . . . by standing every test of comparison.

beautiful and dutiful No designer ever has been able to surpass the inspired 18th century masters we have all come to recognize . . . as we do a fine painting, or a piece of sterling.

No longer do you need to buy furniture twice!

Choose White reproductions, with the assurance that here are all the qualities you would choose if you spent a lifetime learning to recognize the Best in Furniture.



Adapted to our active and varied living, few pieces of White Furniture are made for one room only, or to serve a single purpose.

The wide and varied difference between the decorator pieces that make up a White Collection and the usual "suite" is instantly apparent . . . with many pieces suitable for living, dining, or bedroom.

VERSATILE STAR ◇ ◇ ◇ For your living room . . . **as the piece de resistance** in your dining room . . . or to lend elegance to your hall, the rich and rare design of the Colleton breakfront are a lifelong delight . . . and a lifelong distinction to your home . . .

Superb in workmanship it stars in whatever role it is cast. Its beautiful beveled glass doors . . . instant symbol of quality . . . catch and reflect light. Free of dust-gathering fretwork, they both display and protect your most loved possessions.

equally right and lovely

in many a role is the Colleton server shown, modern child of that romantic piece "The Gentleman's Chest" . . . as useful in your dining room as a butler at attention, charmingly informal in your living room, an exclamation piece for the hall where your guests' eyes light first, and handy as an extra closet in your bedroom!

To lend perfection to utility the serving tray is now detachable. Take it right along with you to the living room for after-dinner coffee, tea, or merely for a cozy fireside meal, family style.

Appointments — Reese Antique Shop, Charlotte, N. C.

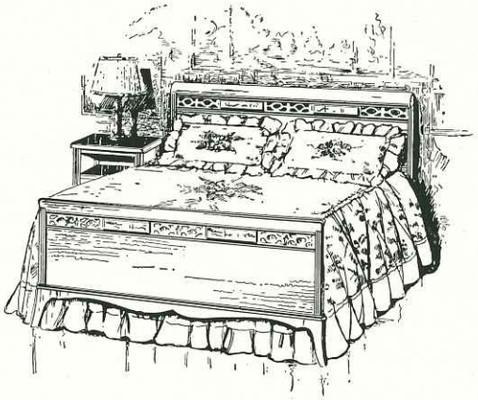
adaptable . . . and so comfortable

The occasional chair in the living room, for example, becomes a lounge chair in the bedroom or boudoir. The graceful loveseat . . . so deservedly popular in the living room . . . makes the entrance hall instantly important where it all but breathes the the word "welcome" with its quiet air of hospitality.

Again, snugly fitted against the footboard of your bed, or conveniently near radio and bookshelves, the loveseat transforms your bedroom into a place for daytime living.

Sturdy frame, strong resilient springs, down-filled cushions, generous depth and width . . . all these abundantly contribute to Comfort — first requirement of every White chair or sofa. With equal care to every detail is achieved that other essential of all upholstered pieces — Blendable Beauty. For your focal pieces around which to build a room you will enjoy, and be proud of . . . nothing could be more lastingly satisfying than a White sofa.

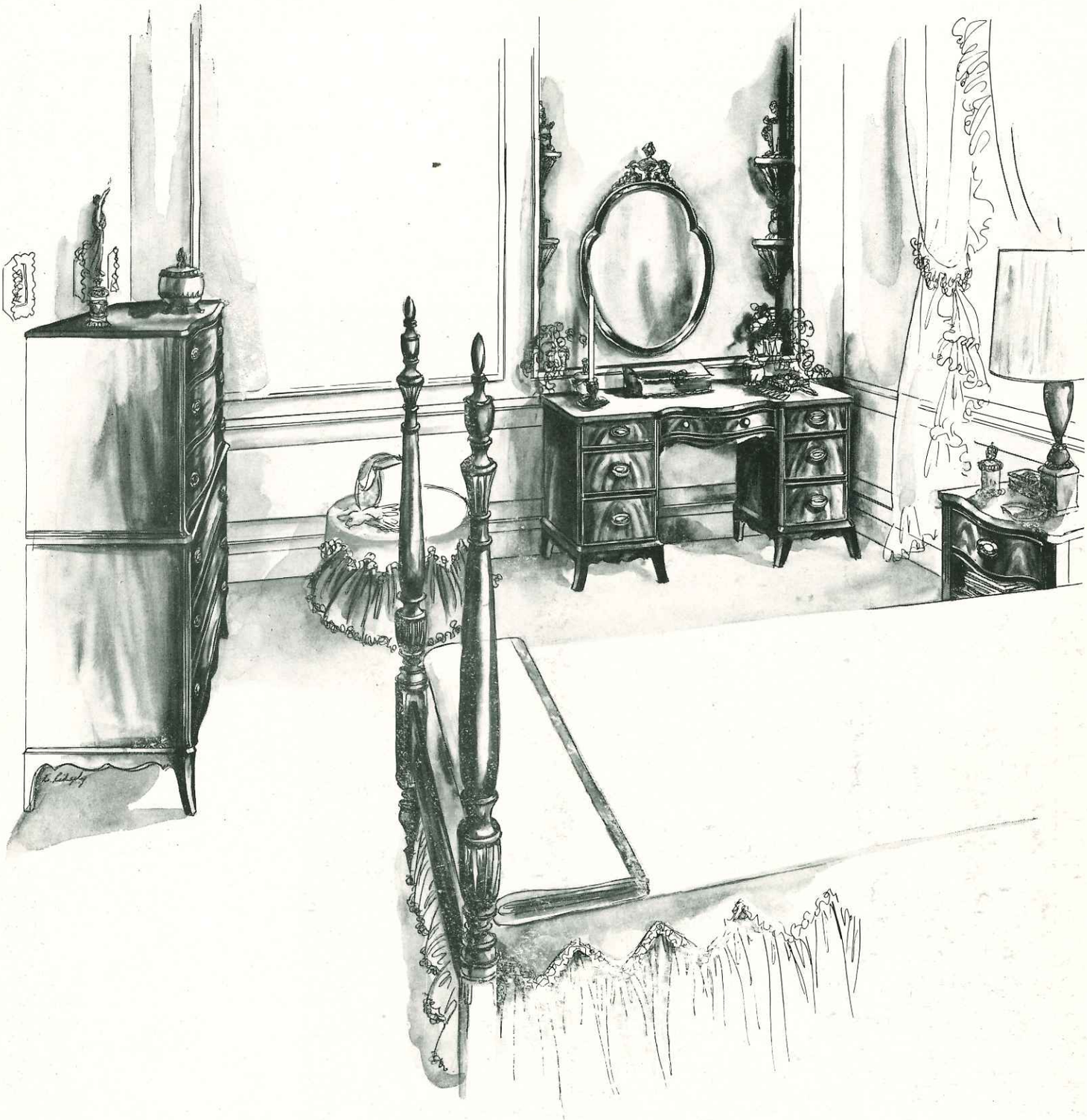
you love the traditional . . . yet need the practical?

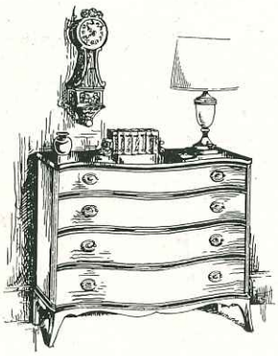


The lovely Hepplewhite and Chippendale double dressers are excellent examples of how White designers give you both. Separated from its companion pieces, either double dresser becomes the focal point of interest in any room. Its beauty is unbelievable and its ulitarian purpose gloriously fulfilled by eight roomy, dust-proof smooth-gliding drawers . . . a piece to use, and to cherish more and more all your homemaking days!

Double dresser from the lovely Serenata Group . . . Ideal beginner's piece

White





The generous proportions of White dressers, chests and vanities are resplendent in spacious rooms . . . but your rooms are small. There is where large pieces bring instant triumph. With fewer large pieces you get more living space and lovelier rooms without sacrificing precious storage space.

from "days long gone"

Many of the pieces first reproduced by White are prized almost as highly as antiques today . . . for only White, through personal connections with the owners . . . has been allowed to reproduce them. These originals are not in museums . . . though museum pieces do inspire many fine reproductions by both White and other makers of quality furniture. The originals, used exclusively by White, remain today in the plantation homes to which they were brought, or for which they were built.

French Sevres Clock Set — Reese's Antique Shop, Charlotte, N. C.

Important as reproductions have been in building the prestige of White Furniture . . . it is the more urgent needs of modern living that challenge White designers today.

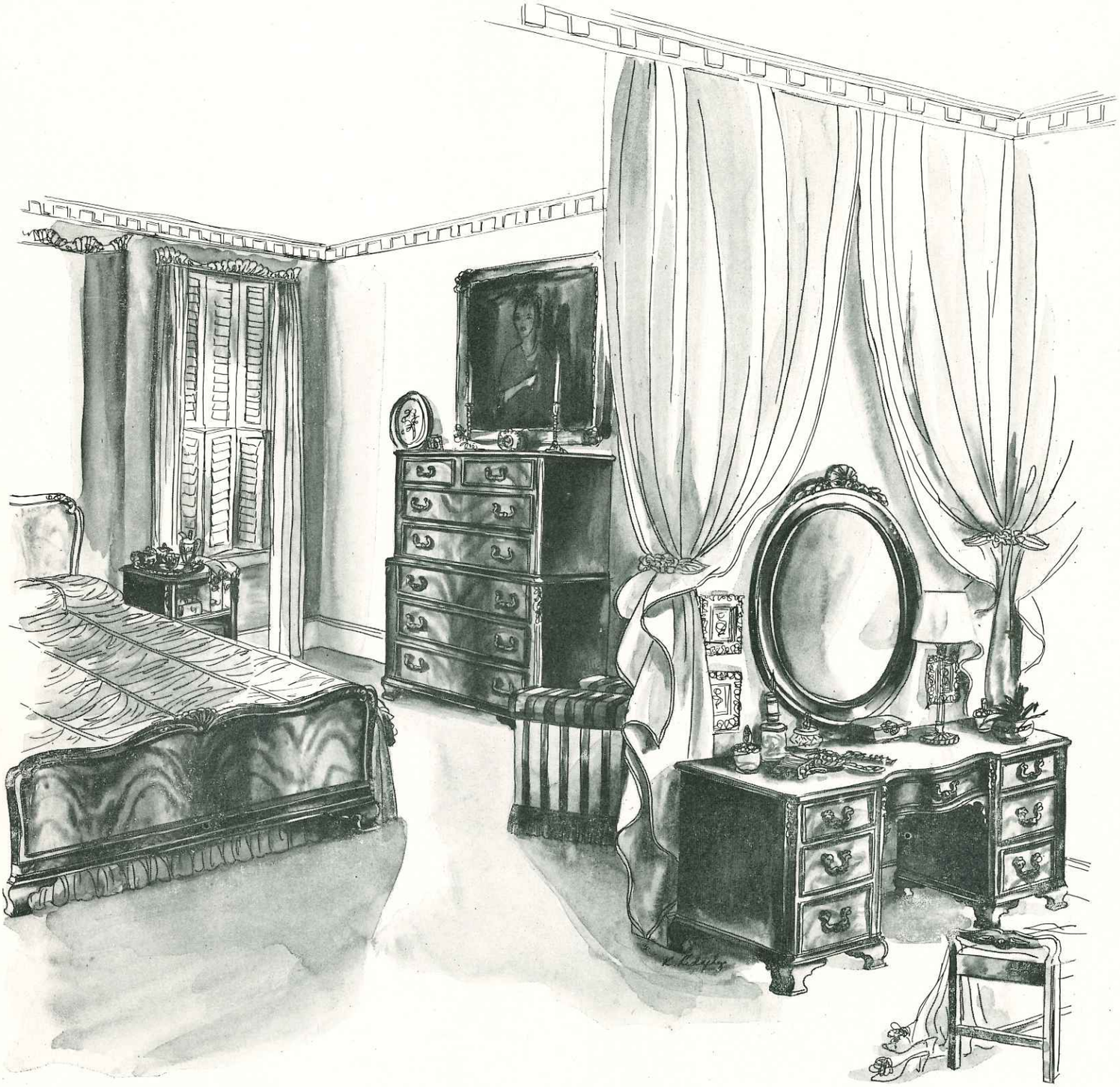
White adaptations . . . in a warm and graceful way . . . blend the loveliness of yesterday with the versatile simplicity needed for today's less formal living.

right to begin with . . . right to grow with . . .

Furniture alone will not give you the effect you want . . . but furniture that blends happily with furnishings, fabrics, floor coverings, and color is your first step toward achieving the harmonious whole that expresses your personality and good taste.

You can choose White furniture one piece at a time . . . and yet be sure that it will never jar or conflict with your furnishings and accessories . . . or with other pieces you may add later.

Taste is never static . . . As time and experience mature and individualize your preferences . . . you will be glad that, in the beginning, you chose White furniture. It's good design and permanent beauty assure it a starring role in any setting . . . traditional or modern.



like a lovely lady whose inherent graciousness "shines through" whether she wears hoops and basque or a simple Dirndl frock . . . the beauty of White's Eighteenth century reproductions and adaptations remains right and pleasing in any decor. This quality of being always comfortable, lovely, and at ease, at any time, in any company, is the final test of good design.

In the modern White plant . . . located on the site of the shop that produced the first piece of White Furniture . . . every known technological and mechanical aid is concentrated on the task of executing useable, livable furniture — for which sincerity of design, beauty of wood, and painstaking workmanship remain the prerequisites.

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a stone to be polished . . .
a wood to be mellowed!

The White Master Finish! Here is the last mellowing process in the creation of lastingly lovely furniture — comparable to the crafting of fine metal to enhance its inherent beauty . . . or the cutting and polishing of a priceless stone to achieve every glittering potential of light and brilliance.

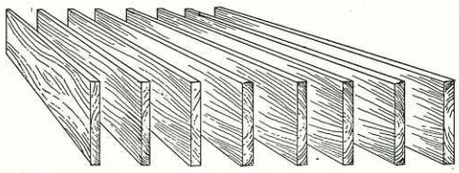
The famous White finish is carefully executed by hand, with the same creative pains with which an artist handles his palette and oils . . . rubbed into the grain . . . rubbed and re-rubbed . . . until wood and finish are one, glowing with rich patina for which antiques are prized. Here no hard or metallic surface is possible . . . instead, fine grain and swirl mahogany glow warm and vital . . . until your fingers are impelled to reach out to touch and feel their liveliness.

Justly, White craftsmen are proud of this finish for nowhere else . . . even with palette and canvass and color . . . can be captured the warmth and play of tone achieved on fine woods worthily treated.

"what time's decree has said is good will serve us well in turn."

Inlaid caskets of the Pharoahs . . . the great banquet tables of the Ceasars . . . cabinets for the Bourbon kings . . . the field desk of Napoleon . . . George Washington's desk at Mount Vernon all are examples of veneering when it was available only to the famous and the wealthy.

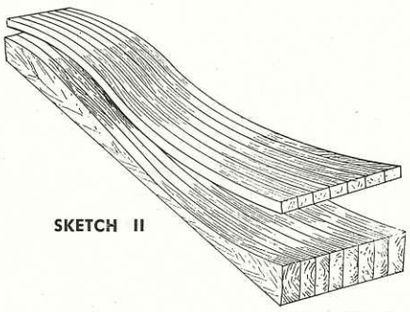
In White Furniture this fine and ancient art makes available to homemakers of America the loveliest surfaces the world's choice woods provide. Here sketches I, II and III present visually the superior beauty and permanence of White veneer over "solid" woods with their inevitable tendency to warp and crack.



SKETCH I

SKETCH I

The first step is the lamination of the "core"—that is, building a "solid" piece of wood by joining seasoned layers in upright position under such pressure and with such permanence that it can never warp, crack, shrink, or expand. All wood for the cases has been scientifically kiln dried to the proper moisture content. The glue used is water-proof and the glue bond used in joining the sections is actually stronger than the wood.

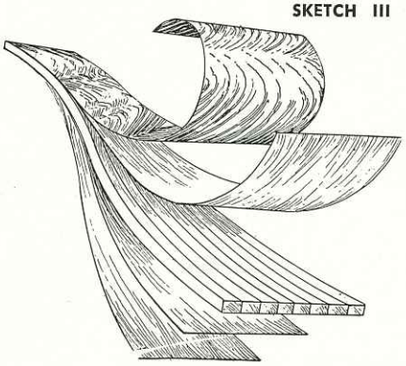


SKETCH II

SKETCH II

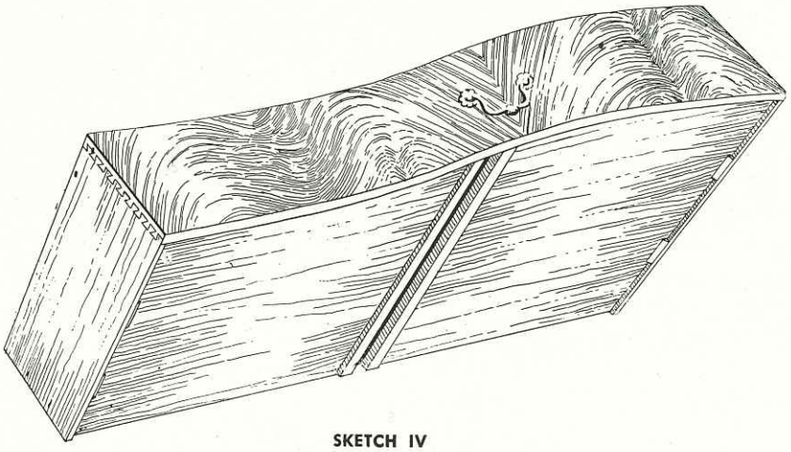
This sketch shows the position of the laminated layers of wood in relation to the shaping of a Serpentine front. A close study of the construction illustrates how impossible it would be even for a curved front to "straighten" or warp under the most extreme conditions of temperature or humidity to which it may be subjected in the modern home.

SKETCH III



SKETCH III

Here you see the final step in White veneering. Note that the laminated core, or center, is now further strengthened by four layers of select, seasoned hardwood with the wood grain running in the opposite direction from that of the core wood. The top layer is the beautifully grained Honduras Mahogany you see on the outside surfaces of White furniture. The process by which laminated center and veneers are solidified, under terrific pressure, make a piece of White furniture almost impregnable to strain, moisture, and all excesses of temperature. Where swirl or crotch mahogany is used, the face is backed by another piece of hardwood and the two are joined under heat and pressure by waterproof glue to prevent checking or cracking of the highly figured mahogany. Thus veneering gives permanence to the beautifully matched wood that enhances so many fine reproductions . . . oftentimes making them even lovelier than the orginals.



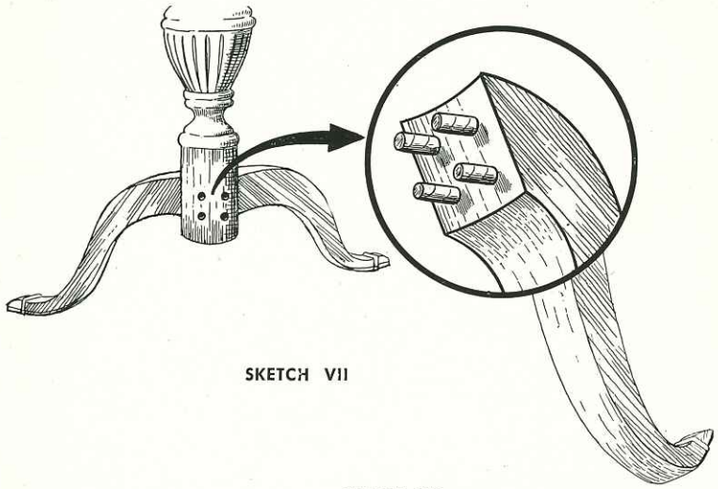
SKETCH IV

SKETCH IV

This sketch shows why White drawers open and close like magic, and never sag even under the heavy weight of unusually long drawers. The groove you see in the center of the drawer slides on an upright guide attached to the dust-proof panel between each drawer. There are similar guides at each end of the drawer.

"see it's fastened with wooden pegs"

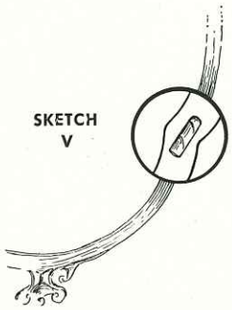
How often you've had the owner of an old cabinet or corner cupboard point proudly to this sign of hand craftsmanship. At White's doweling, or "pegging," is still the secret of strength and beauty in joining . . . though modern craftsmen avoid visible pegging that mars or detracts from the beautiful grain of their surface woods.



SKETCH VII

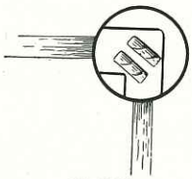
SKETCH VII

Through White furniture, at all points subjected to strain, doweling is used in preference to the speedier and more common "groove and tennon" methods of joining, which does not penetrate to as great depth. The number of dowels used is determined by the need. On a Duncan Phyfe pedestal, for example, four dowels are used to reinforce each leg.



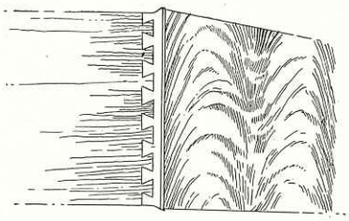
SKETCH V

The fragile mitre joints on narrow mirror frames are made exceedingly strong by the use of hardwood dowels.



SKETCH VI

Wider frames are reinforced with double doweling.



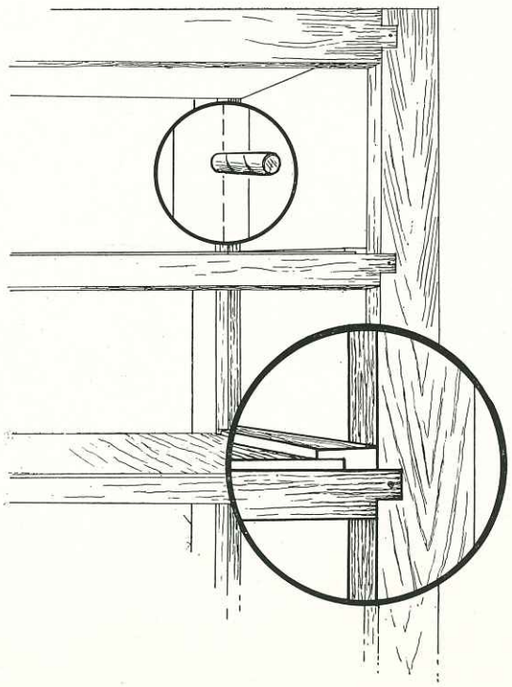
SKETCH VIII

SKETCH VIII

Dovetailing . . . another device inherited from ancient cabinet makers . . . is still used by White for inner joinings. The sketch shows the joining of a side section to the front of a drawer.

SKETCH IX

The frame or "skeleton"—shown here from the back—offers the **real test** of good furniture, yet it is seldom inspected by the casual purchaser. In the small circle is another example of "pegging", here joining front panel to the frame. In the larger circle are shown three more of White's quality construction details . . . strong smoothly-sanded drawer bearer—the dust panel that goes between each drawer—and the mortising of drawer rail to the upright corner post. In addition to the features shown, all White cases have a 1¾" back rail between each drawer—and a 3½" rail at the top and bottom of each case. You only have to look at the back construction of a piece of White Furniture to know that it's built for a lifetime of satisfaction.



SKETCH IX

Personalized Decorating

WITH **White** FURNITURE

You who buy this furniture will keep it all your lives

. . . changing only the decor around it . . .

for its traditional beauty is as suited to gay

sophisticated settings as to period backgrounds. And so

wise you are to choose quality as well as

beauty . . . knowing that good design, beautiful woods,

and fine craftsmanship make every White

piece a masterpiece.

Look for the White Crest

Consult your dealer or decorator about White furniture.

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